

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A non-apertured elastic laminate web comprising:

- a) a first web;
- b) a second web joined to said first web in a face to face relationship at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of at least 2, the first and second webs forming an interior region therebetween;
- c) an elastic material being disposed between at least a portion of said first and second webs; and
- d) said elastic material being apertured in regions coincident said bond sites, such that said first and second webs are joined through said apertures.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said laminate is joined by bonds in the absence of adhesive.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said bond sites are discrete thermal bonds having an aspect ratio of at least 3:1.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said bond sites are discrete thermal bonds having an aspect ratio of at least 10:1.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The laminate web of Claim 1, wherein said first or second web comprises a nonwoven.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A laminate web having a plurality of apertures, said laminate web comprising:

- a) first and second extensible webs being joined at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of greater than about 3;
- b) an elastic material disposed between said first and second nonwoven webs; and
- c) the first and second extensible webs being in fluid communication via the apertures.

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Claim 7 (original): The laminate web of Claim 6, wherein said laminate is joined by bonds in the absence of adhesive.

[Claim 8 (canceled)]

Claim 9 (currently amended): The laminate web of Claim 6, wherein said bond sites are discrete thermal bonds having an aspect ratio of at least about 10. ~~10:1~~.

Claim 10 (original): The laminate web of Claim 6, wherein said first or second extensible web comprises a nonwoven.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A disposable absorbent article comprising an elastic laminate web having a plurality of apertures, said elastic laminate web comprising:

- a) a first web;
- b) a second web joined to said first web in a face to face relationship at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of at least ~~[[2]]~~ about 3, the first and second webs forming an interior region therebetween;
- c) an elastic material being disposed between at least a portion of said first and second webs; and
- d) said elastic material being apertured in regions coincident said bond sites, such that said first and second webs are joined through said apertures.

Claim 12 (original): The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein said first or second extensible web comprises a nonwoven.

Claim 13 (original): The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein said elastic laminate web further comprises absorbent gelling material.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An article of apparel comprising an elastic laminate web having a plurality of apertures, said article comprising:

- a) a first web;

- b) a second web joined to said first web in a face to face relationship at a plurality of discrete bond sites having an aspect ratio of at least ~~[[2]]~~ about 3, the first and second webs forming an interior region therebetween;
- c) an elastic material being disposed between at least a portion of said first and second webs; and
- d) said elastic material being apertured in regions coincident said bond sites, such that said first and second webs are joined through said apertures.

Claim 15 (original): The article of apparel of Claim 14, wherein said first or second extensible web comprises a nonwoven.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method for forming an elastic laminate web the steps of:

- (a) providing first and second web materials comprising thermoplastic material;
- (b) providing at least one third elastomeric web material;
- (c) providing a thermal point bonder having a plurality of protuberances;
- (d) guiding said third elastomeric web material in a stretched condition between at least a portion of said first and second web materials in a face-to-face layered relationship to said thermal point bonder;
- (e) displacing said third elastomeric web material with said protuberances at discrete, spaced apart locations to form apertures in said third material; and
- (f) thermally point bonding said first and second outer web materials to form bond sites at discrete, spaced apart locations coincident with said protuberances, thereby forming a bonded laminate.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 16, wherein said third web material is provided in an unapertured condition.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 16, wherein said third web material is involved in said thermal point bonding about a perimeter of a said bond sites.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A method for forming an apertured elastomeric laminate web comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing first and second web materials comprising thermoplastic material;
- (b) providing at least one third elastomeric web material;

- (c) providing a thermal point bonder having a plurality of protuberances;
- (d) guiding said third elastomeric web material in a stretched condition between at least a portion of said first and second web materials in a face-to-face layered relationship to said thermal point bonder;
- (e) displacing said third elastomeric web material with said protuberances at discrete, spaced apart locations to form apertures in said third material;
- (f) thermally point bonding said first and second outer web materials to form bond sites at discrete, spaced apart locations coincident with said protuberances, thereby forming a bonded laminate; and
- (g) stretching said bonded laminate to form apertures in the elastomeric laminate web.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said first and second web materials comprise nonwoven fibers.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said stretching means comprises incremental stretching.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said protuberances of said thermal point bonder have an aspect ratio of between about 3 and 20.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein said protuberances of said thermal point bonder have an aspect ratio of 10.

Claim 24 (new): The laminate web of Claim 6 wherein said bond site has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.

Claim 25 (new): The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein said bond site has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.

Claim 26 (new): The article of apparel of Claim 14 wherein said bond site has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.